

MICHIGAN FARMER.

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, the Mechanic Arts, and Rural and Domestic Affairs.

SEMI-MONTHLY.

Perfect Agriculture is the foundation of all Trade and Industry.—Liebig.

NEW SERIES.

VOL. VII.

DETROIT, DECEMBER 15, 1849.

NO. 24.

PROSPECTUS OF THE MICHIGAN FARMER, VOLUME VIII. GREAT IMPROVEMENTS.

The eight volume of the Michigan Farmer, commencing on the first of January next, will be issued *monthly*, in a dress and style superior to anything in the West, and comparing favorably with the best agricultural papers in the East, each number to contain thirty-two pages, the same number of pages and of the same size with the Albany Cultivator.

It will be filled, as it has been the past year, with original matter, drawn from the farmers of Michigan, and adapted to their circumstances and necessities, embracing the travels of the Editor in various parts of this state and of the United States, and, if his means will admit, in Foreign countries, and also the contributions of an able corps of correspondents.

For the information of such as know little of the Michigan Farmer, we shall doubtless be excused in making the following quotations.

Says the Albany Cultivator, speaking of the Michigan Farmer, "The Editor is an able writer, and if the paper is not well sustained, the fault is not chargeable to him."

Says the Prairie Farmer, "Of all our exchanges, not one shows better ability to make a good paper than the Michigan Farmer."

Says the Wisconsin Farmer, "The Michigan Farmer is winning golden opinions."

Says the Genesee Olio, a literary Journal, published at Rochester, N. Y. "We like the way Mr. Isham gets up his editorials. May he have 20,000 subscribers to read his "Notes by the Way."

Hon. E. H. Lothrop, in his much and justly applauded address before the Michigan State Agricultural Society, at the late State Fair, speaking of the importance of sustaining the Michigan Farmer as the State Agricultural paper, says, "It is a very ably conducted paper, and ought to be in the hands of every farmer in the state," and then follows a quotation from its editorial columns.

Such testimonials might be greatly multiplied.

TERMS.—For single copies, in advance, \$1 00
After three months, 1 25
After six months, 1 50
After nine months, 1 75

To clubs five copies for four dollars, twelve copies for nine dollars, and any larger number at the same rate, *strictly in advance*.

N B No subscription taken for less than one year, nor discontinued till arrearages are paid and notice given to the publisher. We shall continue to send to all our old subscribers who do not notify us. Our terms will be strictly adhered to.

Premiums.—To postmasters and others, who will send us fifteen or more new subscribers, in

clubs or otherwise, we will give, as a premium, the back volumes of the Farmer, during the time we have published it.

Will those postmasters, who cannot put forth active efforts, be so kind as to have this prospectus posted in some conspicuous place?

P. S. There will be an index to each number and a general one at the end of the volume.

The postage will be only 12½ cents per year.

WARREN ISHAM.

DETROIT, Nov, 10th. 1849.

Change in the form of the Farmer.

It gives us pleasure to learn, that the proposition to enlarge the Michigan Farmer, and make it a *monthly*, meets the general approbation of our subscribers. The advantages are these: in the first place, it will present a far more respectable appearance, coming along side of the best Eastern Agricultural papers in that respect. And as the matter it contains, is designed for permanent reading, it matters little whether the half of it comes semi-monthly or the whole of it monthly. And then the postage is reduced almost to nothing, to three cents a quarter, or twelve cents a year, instead of twenty-four cents, the postage on a semi-monthly, or fifty-two cents, the postage on a weekly. This arrangement will also encourage us to make a greater show of engravings. Engravings, scattered through a semi-monthly, or weekly, which would scarcely be noticed, would if concentrated in a monthly, make quite a display, and command attention. But not the least of the advantages of this arrangement, is that it will give us time to be absent more, and thus enable us to add increasing interest to its editorial columns.

"*Happy new year.*"—Do our subscribers wish us one? Do those in arrears breathe such a desire for us? Need we tell them how they can accomplish it?

A proposition.—We have a proposition to make to all our subscribers who would make the new year a happy one to us, and who would inspire us with new energy in the prosecution of our future labors, viz. that each one send us at least one new name (and as many more as he can) as a new year's offering. How small a thing it would be to each—how great a thing to us!

MR. CLEMENS, Dec. 1, 1849.

MR. WARREN ISHAM—*Dear Sir:* As you invited all your friends to write to you in these long evenings, I undertake the task, and although my letter throughout will be somewhat practical yet it will by no means be partizan.

It appears from the prospectus of the Farmer for 1850, that we shall hear from you but once a month, instead of twice, as we have been favored heretofore. This time seems rather long for the absence of so great a favorite as the Farmer has been in every family where it has made its visits.

PROFESSOR MAPES, &c. &c.

I read your account of Professor Mapes with much pleasure. The description of the reading room of the American Institute brought to my mind those by-gone days when I lived in that city, (New York.)—Many a pleasant hour have I spent in examining the various models in the mechanics department. In the short space of my recollection, I remember many men like Professor Mapes, who have in a short time made an independent fortune in the mercantile business, and after a few years idleness, have applied their idle capital and their idle talents to some new and wild speculation, and in a much shorter time have lost all again. Those who have been more prudent, and employed their minds in the study of that most pleasing of all professions, agriculture and horticulture, found a snug retreat in the reading room of the American Institute, where they had access to a most excellent library, and by reading and experiments, have much favored us in those sciences. Another class of merchants, who, by stint and much self denial, with the most rigid adherence to economy, having escaped those general calamities befalling many business men, have raised themselves to a respectable credit, but when they have gained enough by trading to make themselves a comfortable independence, find their health so far impaired, that they are glad to apply themselves to the practice of agriculture to regain it, even in their declining years of life, so that they

Garden and Field Rollers.

THE subscriber is now manufacturing and offer for sale Rollers made of cast iron, and of various sizes, for gardens, fields or Highways.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and seed store by
T. S. SPRAGUE.
June 8, 1849. No. 30, Woodward Avenue.

**MARTIN'S PREMIUM
COLORED DAGUERREOTYPES.**

LADIES and gentlemen are invited to call and examine specimens. Miniatures taken without regard to the weather.

Rooms in the Odd Fellows' Hall, Woodward Avenue, Detroit.

Detroit Agricultural Warehouse

AND
SEED STORE.

T. S. SPRAGUE, dealer in Agricultural and Horticultural Implements, Horse Powers, Smut and Threshing Machines, Flower, Field and Garden Seeds, Bulbous Roots of all kinds, Fruit trees and Shrubbery, No. 30, Woodward Avenue, corner Woodbridge-st. Detroit, Mich.

The highest market price paid for grass and clover seed, dried apples, &c. &c. Consignments of pork, lard, butter, and produce generally respectfully solicited and promptly attended to. Country dealers supplied at manufacturers' prices. All orders by mail or otherwise faithfully executed. Our assortment will be found on examination, to comprise every thing wanted for use by the farmer, the dairyman and the gardener.

Farmers and dealers are cordially invited to call and examine our stock after the 20th of April, when we shall open the establishment. Any thing not comprised in our catalogue, which is called for, will be promptly furnished without any additional expense to the purchaser.

Resolution

Passed unanimously by the "State Agricultural Society" of the State of Michigan:

Resolved, That we are gratified to learn that Messrs. Sprague & Co. are establishing in Detroit, a warehouse for keeping improved agricultural machines and implements, and the choicest variety of seeds for gardens and farms, adapted to the wants of the people of this state, and hope that people living in Michigan will appreciate the benefits of such an establishment within our limits, and give it their patronage.

EPAPHRO. RARSON, Pres't.

A. W. HOVEY, Secretary.
March 24, 1849.

Great Northern Route

BETWEEN THE EAST AND THE WEST,

BY WAY OF THE MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD

ILL Commence operation on the opening of navigation, by which passengers will be taken between Chicago and Buffalo, in from 30 to 45 hours, and to New York in from 55 to 70 hours shortening the time between Chicago and Buffalo to less than one-third that of any other route.

A Steamboat will leave Milwaukee every morning, and Chicago every morning and evening for New Buffalo, (the western terminus of the Railroad,) which with the Cars to Detroit, and Steamboats to Buffalo, will form two daily lines from Chicago to Buffalo, connecting directly with the Cars from Buffalo to Albany, and Steamboats to New York, or Cars to Boston.

Going west, a Steamboat will leave Buffalo every morning and evening, running from the Cars of the Albany and Buffalo Railroad, for Detroit, thence by Railroad to New Buffalo, and by Steamboat from the morning train at New Buffalo to Milwaukee and other ports, and from both trains to Chicago, connecting with the line of large Packets on the Illinois and Michigan Canal to La Salle, thence by the Express line of first class river Steamboats to St. Louis, and by the lower river Steamboats to towns on the Mississippi, and New Orleans. J. W. BROOKS, Sup't Michigan Central Railroad.

**Grosse Isle Institute,
FOR THE EDUCATION OF BOYS.**

DEV. M. H. HUNTER, an Alumnus of

PAC

MISS

ed to.
June 12, 1849.

Detroit Seed Store.

F. F. Parker and Brother offer for sale a full assortment of Garden, Field and Flower Seeds and Agricultural Implements, Ploughs, Corn Shellers, Seed Plants, Straw Cutters, &c. &c.
F. F. PARKER & BRO.
Agents Genesee Seed Store.

Office on King's corner, third story.

PRINTED BY GEIGER & CHRISTIAN,
BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS,
Corner of Jefferson and Woodward Avenues,
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are not so well off as if they had practiced that healthy, certain, and happy employment all their days.

There is, however, one trace more in the account you gave of Professor Mapes, which stands very conspicuous; and as Henry Clay is no longer before the public as a candidate for office, it will be no harm to speak of so good and meritorious an act—it reflects honor on the country. It is like the instance given in Josephus, of the spurious Alexander, who laid claim to the Kingdom of Judea, and who, although he had gained followers every where, and was in a fair way to get the Kingdom, yet, when he came into the presence of Caesar, was at once detected. It does good to the heart of an honest man to know that we have some men in the country of some stability and virtue. What a contrast it affords to the variable conduct of John Tyler in his administration. I shall not, however, dwell any longer on this head, as the Professor will probably by this time "take"—Ginger.

PLANK ROADS.

In all your zeal for the advocacy of plank roads, can you bring any plea to justify the act of taking away our common State road, and applying it to the benefit of a few favored individuals? We bought the lands of the Federal Government, and made a road through them for our own accommodation, and after hewing the path out thro' the original forest, and working it with our own hands for these fifteen years, have made it as good a road as there is leading into the county seat, and quite passable for many months in the year, and now the State pretends to take it from us and give it into the hands of a few fellows, who, for the most part, have had no visible business to procure a livelihood; that is to say, they lived on ginger-bread: and we are not to have the usual access to our farms, without paying tribute to them, although the land on which their plank are laid, actually does, and always did, belong to us. If they wish to make a plank road, let them buy their land, and make their road, and when we see fit to use it, we will pay them the toll. To argue that the State has made the laws, is to argue without grounds. We bought the land from the United States, and got Old Hickory's deed for it, and who invested the State of Michigan with power to take it away from us, for any purpose whatever, without an equivalent? Will you call the attention of some of our Senators and Representatives to the matter, for certainly they must smell ginger here.

One of your friends observed, that the toll taken on a plank road was not more than would keep a wagon in repair on common roads. This friend must drive an old wagon, that wants a prodigious sight of repairs, and then I guess he would want a new one when he went on the plank road, for if he went any considerable distance, his toll would amount to as much as his load would come to.

In one of the Eastern States, some teamsters were in the habit of turning off the McAdamized turnpike for a part of the way, in the Summer time, when the old roads were dry and hard, and one of them remarked it was as good as a penny a time to his wagon, not to consider the more pleasant route, and the beautiful farms on the old road, which made it more agreeable. I requested him to make a calculation on it, and he found that a wagon would be all worn out, with the best of usage, long before it would pass ten thousand times over the route, which would be the price of a new wagon, (\$100, 20 years.) There are many things we imagine in our minds, that we are perfectly willing to abandon, when we come to figures, or to a thorough examination of the matter. This fact gives many an honest man a prejudice against book farming. He imagines that all that is written on agriculture is phantom, not having understood that it is a faithful recording of actual experience. We are happy to find, however, that the matter is getting better understood.

There were two letters published in the Farmer on the subject of Physical Education, on which I intended by all means to have given my endorsement, but as those numbers have got out of the way, by some unaccountable means, I cannot refer to them. I will write on the subject again, by your permission.

INFORMATION ASKED.

I am most desirous to know one thing, and do not know where to apply for information; perhaps you, or some of your correspondents, could inform me. We are disgraced in this christian country, by many persons of all sorts, kinds, and colors, rich and poor, who most shamefully profane the name of the Supreme Being, not for nothing, but for reasons that I could give. Can you tell me whether any of the idolatrous nations, ancient or modern, suffered the name, title, and attributes, of their gods, to be so abused?

I have more religious remarks to make,

and will make them in my next, by your consent.

Your sincere friend and ob't serv't,

J. S. C.

P. S. Will some one inform me who can, what are the peculiar properties of the Mexican Sheep, and what kinds of wool we raise here that are the same as that grown in Mexico, and what is the value of those kinds of sheep in Michigan?

REMARKS BY THE EDITOR.

Plank Roads—their advantages to the Farmer, &c.—We are of the opinion that our correspondent is in the right, in one particular, and wrong in another. We should greatly doubt whether the State could rightfully appropriate a highway of that kind to such a purpose.

The question as to the comparative advantages of the two kinds of road, is quite another thing, and here we think our friend in error. It has been demonstrated, that the same power which is necessary to move one ton upon an ordinary earth road, will move four tons upon a plank road. But to keep entirely within bounds, we will suppose that the proportion stands only as 3 to 1, instead of 4 to 1. The same team, then, which will haul one ton upon a common highway, will haul three tons upon a plank road. For instance, if our friend at Mt. Clemens wished to transport 3 tons of produce in wagons to Detroit—upon an ordinary highway, he would have to make three trips; whereas, upon a plank road, he would only have to make one. In making that one trip, however, he would be subjected to about eighty cents toll, in passing both ways; but what would that be as an offset to the two trips which are saved which would occupy himself and team some four days? And then, though the first cost of the wagon for a plank road is something more, what is that in comparison with the wear and tear of an ordinary wagon upon our common highways?

But perhaps our friend will reply, that though our estimate applies with proper force to plank roads running into the interior, they do not apply with the same force to one from Detroit to Mt. Clemens, inasmuch as the people thereabouts enjoy the advantages of water communication with Detroit, and there would be no occasion for it for transportation purposes, unless occasionally, when navigation was closed. But do not be too selfish, friend. If the road for transportation purposes, would not benefit you who reside in the village, it would materially benefit those who live upon it.

at least fifteen miles out of the twenty.

Nor are we quite certain that the people of Mt. Clemens and the region beyond, tho' they should only want to come to Detroit in their light wagons, would not be benefitted by such a road. "In the spring and fall, and frequently during a great part of the winter, the road is very rough, and at times almost impassable, at its best estate, in mid-summer, it is more or less rutty.—It is our opinion, that it would be both cheaper and more comfortable, for such to ride over a plank road from Mt. Clemens to Detroit. The toll would not exceed forty cents, both ways, and a person could go the twenty miles, spend two or three hours in doing business and return the same day, which could very seldom be done upon the common highway.

We have no doubt, that plank roads are destined to become a great public benefit, and especially to our farming population. By making our farmers their own carriers, these roads make them independent of the country dealers, by whom they say they are so often fleeced. With such facilities at their command, if they are not offered what they deem a fair price by dealers at home, they can turn upon their heels, and say to them, "gentlemen, if you will give us a fair price for our produce, very well, you can have it; but if not, we ask no favors; we will make our own shipments!" And straightway you will see them stretching themselves up upon the top of their loads, of four, five, or six tons, as independent as lords, on their way to Detroit.

Of vastly more benefit, in our opinion, will plank roads be to our farmers, than to those who invest capital in their construction. The first cost is heavy, and in two years, or sooner, they will begin to need repairs, and within five years, they must be entirely relaid.

But admit that they bring a profitable return to the capitalist, then it can only be said that the benefit is mutual, and certainly that is as it should be—is it not? We do not believe in legislating for the wealthy at the expense of the laboring man, any more than our friend; but if we can induce the former so to invest the means at their command, that the latter will be equally benefitted with themselves, then certainly, while they put money in their own pockets, they put it also into the pocket of the laboring man, and thus are entitled to be regarded as public benefactors, and not the less so, because they are moved by selfish

motives, and do not care a fig for the interests of the laboring man. Nor does it lessen the value of the resulting benefit to the community at all, that those who are instrumental in conferring it, reap a handsome reward for their outlay, and live upon the fat of the land—does it? Certainly not.

Book Farming.

From Mr. Williams' Address before the Kalamazoo Co. Agricultural Society.

The prejudices against book farming are yet strong. If you study the book in order to find how many experiments you can try, how many novelties you can run after, the book is for you a bad guide. If you seek its counsel to save you from error and aid your inquiries, it is invaluable. I venture to say that but few men have taken an agricultural paper for a single year, and read it without saving by its suggestions, six to ten times its cost. A mere recipe from the Michigan Farmer will often save your wife five times the cost of the paper in a year. A man is a pedant and a laughing stock who lives by books and disregards the experience of daily life; but how much worse than the pedant is a dolt—who is guided only by his own private experience, that is perhaps rather mole-eyed, and spurns the experience of all other men, and all other countries, because it comes through books. No sensible man makes up his judgment without all the facts; yet a farmer who scorns the written experience of others, leaves out a portion of his data. Written instruction is very often better than oral, because noted down with more care. A public spirited man, by a long course of experiments, and at a heavy expense, makes some discovery. He publishes it, and it costs you nothing. A virulent disease attacks your sheep, or cattle, or fruit trees. You turn over the index of your Farmer, and find all the known remedies described. Within a few years great improvement has been made in agricultural implements.—The magazines contain early and ample information respecting them all. These works serve to dispel the bigotry that frowns on labor-saving machinery, which has revolutionized entirely the scientific and mechanical world, and often in other walks of life has multiplied an hundred fold the productions of a single head and hand. If any wheat grower doubts the value of a book, let him read the abundant and varied information contained in the last Patent Report, respecting the nature and qualities of wheat, and then deliberately say whether he is too wise to learn. If there are twenty men in this assembly who think written wisdom nothing, oral advice and tradition everything, let them settle in some fertile Eden and wall themselves out from the rest of the world. They shall work from now published, no imported light. Let them emerge again, they and their posterity, a century hence, and where would they be?

They would be on their road to China, where semi-civilization was done up like a mummy, some thousands of years since, and remains yet in a decent state of preservation.

Education of Farmers' Sons

What is education? It is a development of all the powers and faculties, without the neglect of any; its result is capacity—capacity to fill with honor and usefulness all your duties in the world. To educate the head without developing the physical powers, is to make a man a semi-monster. My mind reverts to men of vast intellectual capacities, who have dragged through life diseased bodies, and who led an existence as miserable and cheerless as would be the life of one of the Siamese twins, if compelled to drag through the world the dead body of the other. If a farmer has a son who shows great precocity, stimulate not the brain at the expense of the physical frame. It is a common and fatal error to take from the farm and deprive of physical exercise, the children of bright intellects and feeble constitutions. How often have we all seen the result of this erroneous partiality in premature graves. How often have we seen the selected genius of the family become a nervous, impracticable, feeble, hypochondriac, and its prospective pride, become, perhaps, its dependent and its burden. No, let the delicate and diseased remain at home. Let them follow a life where they can enjoy the full benefit of Nature's great specifics—air, exercise, and water—and suffer only those of the most vigorous and confirmed constitutions, to incur all the hazards and miseries of a sedentary life. No, let not the farmer seek to remove his son to some more showy pursuit. His true policy is to retain the best talent and keenest intellect at home, and in time his calling shall be felt as the most liberal, as it is the most important of human pursuits. Thus you will dignify toil and multiply its profits, by bringing erudition, and skill, and sharpened faculties to every daily investigation. What a strange idea, that the farm is a limited sphere, when a farmer can practically bring the inductions of all the Natural sciences to illustrate his daily pursuit and enhance his income. If he plows in the open field, he can prove himself a philosopher and a man of science, and returning to his nursery and his garden, he can gratify his tastes in the cultivation of a Fine Art, and surround himself with a Gallery, whose hall is "God's first temple, and whose pictures rival in beauty and exced in utility the rarest specimens of the Louvre.

Agriculture in Minnesota.—We are authorized to state for the information of the Farmers of Minnesota, that an agricultural association, lately formed at the Falls of St. Anthony, will pay *One Hundred Dollars* in premiums on the following conditions; viz—Fifty Dollars for the best field of wheat.

Twenty-Five Dollars for the best field of oats. The same for the best field of corn.

HORTICULTURAL.

Notes by the Way—No. 48.

BY THE EDITOR.

Some two miles up the river, from the city, we found our friend Crabb, busily engaged in his garden. He has some four acres of land lying upon the river, which he is devoting to garden purposes, and he seems to be quite at home in the business.

Under Draining.—His first care has been, as it should be, to execute a thorough system of under draining. The surface soil is a dark, heavy loam, resting upon a clay subsoil, and when the season is ordinarily wet much stagnant water is retained. It was quite dry, when we were there, and yet there was some water standing in some post holes which he had recently dug, and he assured us, that they would have been quite full, but for a drain which he had put in a few days before a little distance from them. When he has completed his drains they will take off all the stagnant water. He has one drain leading from the cellar of his house through the entire length of his grounds, and emptying into the river. This he has made a surface drain of, in the manner described on a former occasion, as having been practiced by Mr. Brush, viz. by perforating the box which constitutes the cellar drain, throwing in chunks of wood, covering them with straw, and then filling in dirt.

And here we will add, in passing, that we saw no land in Hamtrank, (and we went six miles up the river) which did not need draining, as much as Mr. Crabb's. And yet, none of it is drained, nor is it deemed necessary by the occupants generally, so very limited is their knowledge of the principles of good husbandry. And some even entertain the belief, that draining would be injurious to the land, imagining that the strength of it would run away with the water.

Savoy Cabbages.—Mr. C. has a species of cabbage, which he calls the Savoy, and which to us was quite a curiosity. Its appearance is somewhat like ordinary cabbages, except, that its leaves grow in a perfect pucker, or crisp, presenting a very odd and at the same time, a very beautiful appearance. Nature seems to have done her prettiest, in this instance, to imitate art. She did not, it is true, lay her plants quite as regularly as art would have done, but they are all the more beautiful. These cabbages, Mr. C. says, are much better than the ordinary cabbage, having a much

better flavor. He thinks they occupy a place about midway between the common cabbage and the cauliflower. They are improved in quality, by standing out through the winter; the more they freeze, the better they are.

Mr. C. has also some of the largest and at the same time perfectly hard and solid, common cabbage that we ever saw. He thinks, they are of a peculiar kind, and designs procuring seed from them.

His asparagus bed.—Mr. C. has been making an asparagus bed, and we doubt not he will get well paid for the labor and expense he has bestowed upon it. In the first place, he removed the earth to the depth of two and a half feet; at the bottom he placed a layer of pounded bones, six inches deep, (sixteen loads having been procured for the purpose) upon the bones he placed a layer of well rotted manure, also six inches deep, and then filled up with surface earth, mixed with rotted manure. The bones serve as a foundation, and will aid in more perfectly draining the land at the same time that, by their decomposition, they will furnish elements which the plant needs, and must have, to make a luxuriant growth.

Pie plant bed—trenching.—Mr. C. has also been preparing a pie plant bed, sparing neither pains nor expense to make it right. In the first place, he trenched the ground to the depth of (we think) two and a half feet. As some of our readers may not know what trenching means, we will stop here and tell them all we know about it. In the first place, a ditch is dug along one side of the spot of ground to be trenched, two feet or two and a half deep, more or less, the earth from which is removed. The next thing to be done, is to turn the earth upside down, and downside up, to the above named depth. This is done on this wise; suppose the trenching is to be done two spades deep—take off the surface soil one spade deep and deposit it in the ditch, and then the subsoil another spade deep, and deposit it also in the ditch, upon the top of the surface soil previously deposited, and proceed in this way, repeating the operation, until you have reached the limit to which you wish the trenching to extend, and you have literally "turned the earth upside down," and this is what is called trenching.

In trenching his pie plant bed, Mr. C. mixed sand, lime, and well rotted manure pretty freely with the earth which was thus subversed, as the spading was being done.

We have no doubt he will be well rewarded for the outlay.

We have often wondered, that so little pains has been generally taken to cultivate this important vegetable. It makes excellent pies; by many it is thought even superior to the apple in flavor, for that purpose, and it comes at a season of the year when the latter as well as other fruits, cannot generally be had, except in a dried state.

The philosophy of trenching.—The operation of trenching, as above described, is most useful upon old and exhausted lands; some of the mineral elements, particularly lime, have sunk into the subsoil, but by this operation they are again brought to the surface. Another advantage is, that roots of plants are thus enabled to make their way downwards into the earth. It is of little use to trench ground, however, unless it has been thoroughly drained, as it only furnishes space for a still larger deposit of stagnant water.

How to feed plants.—Some people seem to think that all plants have the same sort of appetite and the same wants, and they are in the habit of placing the same kind of food before them all, congratulating themselves that they have done their duty, and that if the plant does not grow, the fault is not chargeable to them—not considering, that what one kind of plant covets and seizes upon with avidity as essential to its health and growth, another loathes and rejects as unsuited to its nature, or casts out as an excrement, when it chances to find its way into its circulation.

Mr. C. seems to understand the matter better. To obtain the desired result, he does not administer, precisely and indiscriminately, the same kind of food to asparagus and to the pie plant—and why? Because its organic structure is not built up with precisely the same elements, and in the same proportion.

It is true indeed, that we are all but novices as yet in the philosophy of vegetation, but we are making progress, and in fact, have already attained wonderful results in comparison with what was known only a few years back. We know precisely what elements enter into the composition of different plants, and in what proportion. We know, that all these elements exist in the earth out of which the plant grows, and a portion of them also in the atmosphere. These elements, however, exist in the soil in a very different proportion from

what they do in the plants, and in a different proportion in some soils, from what they do in others. The great art of all successful husbandry then, must of course consist in so proportioning the different elements in a soil, that the plant cultivated upon it, may have its appropriate food. And where is the agriculturist, or horticulturist, who does not practically act upon this principle in the cultivation of the earth, so far as his knowledge extends, whether he believes anything about the food of plants, or cares a fig for book-farming or not? Who so ignorant, as not to know, that a plant which would stretch away and grow, in wanton luxuriance, in one kind of soil, would starve to death in another? And who so stupid, as not to see the reason? Who so stupid, as not to see that in the one kind of soil, the elements essential to the growth of the plant, existed, in full proportion, while in the other, there was a deficiency of some of those elements—and that in order to remedy the defect, the deficient elements must be added, and the *very ones* too, which are deficient. Nearly all agricultural and horticultural productions have been analyzed, and every one may know their composition. And with the aid of Mr. Hubbard's simple process of analyzing, published in the Farmer a few numbers back, any one may acquaint himself with the properties of any particular soil, sufficiently at least, for all practical purposes.

Congress of Fruit Growers.

B. Hodge Esq., writes in the Wool Grower as follows:

The Congress met at Castle Garden on the 21 of October. The attendance was rather numerous, probably about two hundred delegates: comprising the most prominent nurserymen and amateur fruit growers from all parts of the United States.—The discussions on fruits were exceedingly interesting, and much valuable information elicited from various individuals. Probably not less than 300 varieties of fruits were discussed. A very large number were declared "unworthy of cultivation." A limited number of the most choice and well known fruits were "recommended for general cultivation." Also some of the more recently introduced sorts; but not as yet fully established varieties, were recommended as "promising well." It is truly gratifying that a *beginning* has been made in applying the pruning knife to our many worthless fruits. We have in our catalogues a long list yet to be rejected.

The Congress appointed a committee of six to meet the committee of six appointed by the North American Pomological Con-

vention, in regard to uniting or merging the two societies into one. The committee of Conference met, and after a very full and friendly discussion, unanimously came to the conclusion to unite the two societies, hereafter to be known as the American Pomological Congress. The meeting next year to be held at Cincinnati.

A mass of information will be laid before the public when the proceedings are published, which to fruit growers will be invaluable.

Culture of Cranberries.

From the Wool Grower.

Mr. Editor:—Connected with the profits of "poetical farming," there is one crop which stands forth as decidedly—take one season with another—the most remunerating in the department, and yet the least understood in its character. Its proper soil, its food, its general cultivation, is now almost as much a mooted question as the famous "strawberry sex," although less noise has been made about it. I allude to the cranberry. We find this little shrub on moist, boggy land, subject to annual irrigation, often in a soil with a large percentage of pure white sand; again in a strong, black, vegetable decomposition, but in almost all cases where it is found wild, it is on a wet, spongy bed. It has, therefore, hitherto been considered impossible to produce this now valuable crop on high land.

From evidence which I have in my possession, and which I shall take occasion to present in a future number of your journal I think I can demonstrate to the farmers of Erie county, that where potatoes will grow there will grow this berry; and let me say to those gentlemen, that it is high time they felt the importance of the *whole subject* embraced under the head of this communication, rather than any solitary branch of it, and although cranberries may produce them \$500 per acre, fruit trees which will grow on the very land they may raise this berry on, need not be neglected longer.—Plant them now, plant them at once, and then under them for a few years, till their foliage hides the sun from the plants. We will grow cranberries to the amount of \$400 to \$800 per acre, aye \$1200, for what the sterile soil of Nantucket can do—what the horticulturist of Nantucket can do, can we not do the same?

The price of this fruit will sometimes run as high as eight dollars per barrel in Boston market, where large quantities are sold for the use of ships bound on long voyages. The pleasant acid of the fruit corrects the deleterious effect of salt provisions, and no whale ships leave without a supply.—The crop produced will vary according to method of cultivation and peculiar soil. From 150 to 400 bushels per acre have been raised. The land is to be, *not* a dry soil, nor a wet soil, but a moist, sandy loam and one that withstands drouth.

The shrubs, or vines as they are called—but I discover nothing of the vine character about them—are to be planted in drills

18 inches apart, and hoed once or twice the first season, as you would potatoes or rather stirring the earth about the plant, for deep hoeing would cover it up completely. They will in two years form a solid bed, spreading in all directions, provided the weeds are kept down between the hills.

Regarding the food of the plant, I am not able to afford any information upon that matter in this article. I have not yet been able to learn what "special manure" it requires. Good rich land will test the "experiment" in this quarter, and we shall know more about it in time.

The testimony I have to offer in support of the assertion that better, larger, handsomer, fruit can be raised by upland cultivation, than we gather from the usual locations of this plant, I will, with your leave, present in the next journal. In the mean time, as the trial will cost but little, let every reader of this article, who has an eight of an acre of land to spare, obtain plants, and set them out at the earliest possible moment; plough your soil well, plant 18 inches apart, and also make an experiment with the berries and see what seedlings will do. More anon.

C. B. T.

Raising Onions.—S. Williams, of Waterloo, N. Y., states that the best way to obtain early onions, is to "plant the black seed after the summer drouths are over, take them up in November and put them in the cellar—and in April set them out in beds. They will soon mature, and are much better than what are called top-onions.

Hams.—The *Southern Cultivator*, notices some hams exhibited at the Georgia state fair, which were one, two, three, and four years old. The writer says:—"The owner refused to divulge his secret; but as we have fortunately become possessed of it, we here give it. Procure some good clean hickory ashes, have them perfectly dry; draw your meat from the pickle on a dry day; sprinkle the ashes over the meat pretty thick, being careful not to knock off more salt than what must fall off; then hang up your meat as high as possible; smoke it with cool smoke, made by hickory wood; be sure to take it down before the skipper-fly makes his appearance, being generally in this climate, first of March; pack it away on a dry day in casks: 1st, a layer of hams in perfectly dry hickory ashes; 2d, a course of corn cobs, &c.; cover your cask snug and tight, and you may rest easy about your hams."

State Asylums.—Our state asylum, for the insane has been located at Kalamazoo, and that for the deaf and dumb at Flint. So then, Ann Arbor has the University, Ypsilanti the Normal School, Jackson the State Prison, Lansing the Capital, and Kalamazoo and Flint the insane and deaf and dumb asylums.

MICHIGAN FARMER.

WARREN ISHAM, EDITOR.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY.

Terms, \$1 in advance—five copies for \$4.

Removal.

After the issue of the present number, the office of the Mich. Farmer will be removed two squares up Jefferson Avenue, to the brick block opposite Maj. Kearsley's, and next door to Markhams' book store. Entrance same as that of the Daily Advertiser.

To our Subscribers in Arrears.

In our last, we gave notice to our subscribers, that all arrearages *must be paid* by the first of January. All who are in arrears for two years, are owing us \$3 50 according to our terms, and those who are owing only for one year, are indebted \$1 75. We will now say to them, that for three dollars forwarded by the former, we will give credit for three years, making one year in advance, and for two dollars we will credit the latter two years, for the present volume and the next. But the matter must be attended to forthwith, or we shall be necessitated to take steps for collecting it according to our terms, or stop printing. You will perceive, that you can have the paper, by paying up, and continuing another year, as cheap as you can have it to the present time, if you discontinue. The money may be forwarded by mail at our risk, *post paid*. Most postmasters are authorized to frank letters to publishers.

Our index and title page occupy so much space, that our "Notes by the way," and Letters from the Editor, have been mostly crowded out this time. They will occupy a large space in the next No. and be continued on through the volume.

Our next Volume.

We would not be importunate, but we know too well the general disposition to delay, and the necessity of prompt and vigorous action on the part of the friends of the Farmer, if they would accomplish anything considerable in its behalf. And they can accomplish wonders, if they will. It is just as Capt. Thompson says; every one is upon the alert upon the approach of an agent, and there must be a regular pitched battle, before anything is accomplished, and after all, only here and there one finally surrenders; whereas, if some one in

each neighborhood whom all know and respect, and have confidence in, should go about and solicit names, nearly every man would subscribe. Are there not such to be found in every neighborhood where the Farmer circulates? We want all names sent in immediately, or as soon as possible.

New Publication.

Elements of physiology, vegetable and animal, by Dr. G. Hamilton—another of the seven volumes of Chamber's series, published by A. S. Barnes and Co. New York.

This volume is full of instruction upon subjects, which are alike interesting and important to every man, woman and child. What can be more interesting than the anatomy and structure of plants, with the functions they perform in transforming dead matter into living organizations?—What more interesting and important, than to understand the mechanism of the human body, "fearfully and wonderfully made," as it is? How else can we understand the laws of health, and be fortified against those pernicious practices so prevalent in the world, by which such multitudes are cut off in the midst of their days, and hurried to a premature grave? The work abounds in plates, illustrative of the various component parts of plants, and of the human system, well calculated to give an impressive view of their structure and uses. For sale by F. P. Markham & Co, Detroit. Every farmer should have it.

Our Index.

Our index to the volume now brought to a close, published in the present number, will be found to be very full and complete, and by referring to it, every thing important in the volume, can be found. In some cases, there may be no heading to the article to which reference is made, but upon examination, the *subject* will be found. In other cases, the heading may be of so general a character as not particularly to indicate the subject in question. In one instance, there is a mispaging. Pages 182 and 183, are mispaged 168 and 169. It would be well for each one to take a pencil and correct them at once.

Encouraging.—We hear, that our friends in various parts of the state, are making large calculations in reference to procuring names for our next volume, in their respective neighborhoods. While we would be duly grateful for the kind appreciation of our services thus manifested, and the interest taken in extending the circulation of

the Farmer, we would say to our friends, that we trust their efforts will not be lost upon us, or upon themselves, for the more they do for us, the more we shall be able to do for them.

Two or three communisations are necessarily laid over for our next number. Our title page and index make sad inroads upon our reading matter in this number.

Our next Volume—Improvements.

We have already, in our Letters and Notes from abroad, endeavored to give to the Michigan Farmer, a literary character, which is not common in agricultural Journals, mingling instruction with amusement, and leading the reader by easy and delightful steps over fields which otherwise might seem quite rugged and forbidding. It is this, to a great extent, which has made the Farmer so general a favorite. In our next volume, we design to raise its character still higher in this particular, and give it an elevated literary, as well as scientific and practical bearing, for certainly these diverse characteristics are not, as is generally deemed, incompatible with each other. Why may not the subject of agriculture be made to take, an attractive form, as well as others? Is it a doomed subject—doomed beyond the possibility of redemption, to an association in our minds with dirt and filth, coarseness, and vulgarity—and to be cast out as an unclean thing, unfit to enter the abodes of taste and refinement? Perish the thought! What, a subject, which, more than any other, is conversant with the beautiful in nature, be thus doomed—thus made to succumb to the diets of a vitiated and corrupt public sentiment? The thing is ridiculous, it is monstrous, nay, it is an abomination, a sin against high Heaven, against the God that framed and put in action the countless atoms of which this universe is composed, with all their wonderful properties, atoms, which in different states of combination, form all the beautiful objects which our eyes behold.

WESTERN FARMER.—This is the name of a small weekly paper (just half the size of the Michigan Farmer in its present form,) the first number of which has recently been issued in this city, edited and published, by G. W. Pattison, late printer and joint publisher of the Detroit Bulletin, recently discontinued. It contains four pages of agricultural matter, the rest being a sort of miscellany. Price one dollar per annum. We regret, that the proprietor thought it expedient to adopt a name which must occasion much confusion.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Things before, at, and after the Fair.

Will you permit me to present a few remarks respecting our late Fair. I acknowledge it is somewhat late in the day to do so, but for all that, I want to have a word or two. They may perhaps amuse some of your readers, and set others thinking for themselves on subjects which they have hitherto taken on trust.

On going through Floral Hall, Mechanics' Hall, and the open grounds, the impression on many minds, no doubt, would be, how many things are here of which I know not the name, much less the uses? It was an interesting thought, that mechanical ingenuity should thus exhibit its resources before the sun-burnt sons of toil, collected together from the marshes and tamarack swamps, the openings and prairies—ingenuity exercised in contriving and maturing those various tools and machines, calculated to facilitate the diversified operations of the farm, the woods, the quarries, and the mills. And it was liberal, it was generous in the mechanic and artizan, to allow the farmers of Michigan, for once in their lives, to see actually, for themselves, the multitudinous means and appliances provided for administering to the ease and luxurious indulgence of the "better sort," (and of themselves, also, if they can get them.) Those antique books excited the cupidity of some, and tempted them to a breach of the tenth commandment. The owner of them, and such as them, *must be a happy man.*

Were those straps, pipes or hose, of gutta percha? Pray tell us what is gutta percha, and ox mola, and papier mache, for we cannot agree on those subjects, and the books are silent respecting them. The exhibition of Fine Arts was so crowded with spectators that not much opportunity was afforded for more than a passing glance.—The "Nose out of Joint" and the "Spirit of '76" are more especially remembered.—Which is the original of the latter, the engraving, or the painting? Who was the painter?

The fastidious taste of our critic and reviewer, urged him rather precipitately to exclaim, "There is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous," when we came to that uncouth-looking carving, with the scalp-lock, &c. But our Professor of Natural Philosophy, and Moral and Political Economy, could, and did at once discern, explain, and lead us to appreciate the ad-

mirable tact of those who managed the arrangements for the exhibition, placing in immediate contrast the productions of the Indian's untutored mind, and the elaborated executions of man's imagination in a high state of cultivation.

"Bob Acres" was at first afraid when he saw the grape shot, "Lest they should go off," but at length took courage, and expatiated *some* on our glorious conquests in Mexico, and concluded by assuring us, that "If it had not been for this vile gunpowder, he would himself have been a soldier."

SHEEP.

Perhaps you will conclude we want *schooling* a little more, respecting those Merinoes. While we think the importers, purchasers, and breeders of them "have done the State some service," and are deserving of all commendation for thus placing within our reach facilities for obtaining *crossings*, yet the Merinoes themselves are not adapted for general sheep husbandry, taking the carcass or mutton into consideration, as well as the wool. Their present price will utterly preclude many from obtaining them, even if they desired to do so, and the risk of their destruction by dogs will also prevent many others, who have the means to purchase, but would shrink from the idea of giving \$100 or \$200 for (it may be) so much dog's meat.

Have you seen in your journeyings to and fro in the earth, any long-wooled Lincolnshires? If so, please tell us what you think of them. The present writer has a nephew in Franklin County, Ind., who, during the summer of 1848, sailed from England with four sheep of the above breed.—One died on the Ocean; the other three, when shorn, after their arrival at their destination yielded seventy-three pounds of *unwashed* wool. What was the nett weight, I know not. But we leave the Fair, cordially uniting in sentiment with one in our party, that the day he spent there (Wednesday) was the most pleasing, rational, and instructive treat he had had for many a year.

AFTER THE FAIR.

Proceed we now to relate a few things happening since the Fair. *I have been from home* a few times of late, and am able to form some idea of the discontent which prevails in many places. You have not witnessed the ferment and turmoil among the disappointed candidates for premium bulls, cows, calves, horses, colts, plows, harrows, and cultivators.

Churn against churn, wash-tub versus

wash-tub, pot contra kettle. There was such a conflict and habbub *with* and *about* horses neighing, asses braying, turkeys gobbling, plow-boys squabbling, bulls bellowing, apples mellowing, drills a sowing, scythes a mowing, churns a dashing, tubs a washing, engines creaking, pigs a squeaking—

It was "Confusion worse confounded," Till each and all were quite astounded.

Happily there was at hand an instrument of music, and "music hath charms to soothe the savage breast." A strain "Loud as the surge that lashes Lapland's bounding shore," burst on the ear, arrested attention, and the habbub ceased, and then a plaintive, wailing, melancholy air accompanying the words,

Wit' glesome heart I placed my work
Where a' men at the fair would see,
But my opponent took the prize,
And disappointment left wi' me.

This affected every one to his heart's core, "Some natural drops they shed.—Then reason resumed its sway" and *they wondered at themselves and at the noise.*

Now do not ask *me where* and *when* this transpired; on that subject, *silence is imposed upon me; I am bound to secrecy.*

You need not be surprised, that you should have seen and heard nothing of all this; you, we well know, were not among the malcontents; you had no cause. The assembled thousands heard the orator of the Society pronounce the decision in your case; you received the prize cup, the *St. Leger* Stakes, simply by walking over the course, no competitor appearing. How then could you expect that the "unfortunates" should utter their complaints in your presence? They could expect no sympathy. One of our number injudiciously and prematurely began to effervesce a little about a cultivator, though very gently, and hardly perceptible, but you *snubbed* him quick, and served him right, for at *that time our organization was incomplete.*

My position, however, with respect to those who missed a premium, is very different from yours,* *I am one of themselves*, and a "Fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind." While, therefore, you are singing a Pean, you will allow me to chaunt a Dirge.

But while so many are dissatisfied, I

* Not at all—honored as we were in the manner specified by our correspondent, we were beaten after all, but we don't care a fig; we didn't try; that is our consolation, and we commend it to others as a specific for all griefs. We were among, not the *eleventh*, but the *twelfth* hour men, all our preparations having been made amid the bustle of the fair. We deserved to be beaten—good enough for us. But never mind, we will beat them next year—see if we don't.—Ed.

will bear witness that in no part of the State, have I heard a single reflection on capability or impartiality of the Judges or Jury. We all know that the character of a Judge is too sacred to be lightly impugned, and that the rights and immunities of a jury are too well defined to be called in question.

DRAFT HORSES.

We hold that it is a moral impossibility for any man, or any number of men, to please every one, and that if they were to attempt to do so, they would continually find themselves in the situation of the man in the fable, who lost his ass, and after all pleased none. Then with what do you still find fault? Why, with our *luck*, our *ill-fortune*. We have done our best, and yet we failed. We, in this place had a three year old colt, which, for all services on a farm, or for draught elsewhere, was equal, or, as we believed, superior to all that could be brought against him, and we had the opinion of as good a judge of horse flesh as any in Michigan, to this effect—Said he, you have bone and sinew in that horse, and I consider that Mr. — has attained the ne plus ultra of a draught horse, equi-distant from a full-blooded Arabian, and the heavy, two miles-an-hour, shaggy-legged, English cart horse, with a foot like a pavier's rammer; yes, but the blood, the action, the speed! Talk to me of blood—you want bone and sinew, I tell you, to draw your ploughs at home, and you will get far better crops if you have a team that is fully equal to their work; and you want bone and sinew to draw your cord-wood, and hay, and flour, and grain, to market. I admire as much as any one a beautiful full-blooded horse, but the man who should propose to put such a horse as the Danley Arabian, or Flying Children's or Eclipse, before a plough or lumber wagon, ought to be black-balled, and expelled from any and every Jockey Club in the world. Such horses do well on the race course, the hunt, or the road, either under the saddle, or before a light carriage. These are their proper places, and well they become them, but never put them before a lumber wagon; there you want stoutness, and strength, and lastingness. Now, with such an opinion before us, we made ourselves sure of a decision in our favor, and then to miss it, and not have a big *punkin*, or squash, or cabbage, to redeem the credit of our township—*Oh, it was too bad!* Now, under the circumstances, we have resolved to unite together for the redress of grievances, and you will perceive from one of the resolutions following, that an invitation is given to a certain class, of which you will find the type and characteristics in the delineation of one, who may well be considered as the Dux, as the head of the class.

He is a mechanical projector, and has long been projecting a motive power, which,

though extremely simple in itself, combines the varied forces of the lever, the wedge, the screw, and the inclined plane. Some say it is impossible. "But impossible is the adjective of fools." He has been so long engaged in this great novelty, that he has exhausted all available means, while some men have grown rich merely by improving a solid headed pin, or a brad-awl. For this reason, he had nothing to exhibit at the Fair; but in his simplicity, said he, "They might have known I had it in me, yes, they might have known." *Let none condemn him as a moon-struck madman.*—"There is method in his madness."

INDIGNATION ASSOCIATION.

The following preamble and resolutions form the basis of our future proceedings and co-operation:

Whereas, it is exceedingly desirable and indispensably necessary that the great objects of the Michigan State Agricultural Society should be promoted and sustained. And whereas, it is not possible in the nature of things that all who compete for the Society's premiums, should obtain them, for the manifest reason that where two ride the same horse, at the same time, one must be behind.

And whereas, we consider that we have sufficient talents and energy to produce something which shall "astonish the natives," that we would choose rather to be first in an insignificant village, than second in Rome. Then be it resolved,

1. That we unite in an association auxiliary to the State Agricultural Society, under the style and title of "The Association of Disappointed Candidates," and that an invitation shall be given to all who exhibited nothing at the Fair, as they also obtained no premium.

2. That no man shall be a member of this association who has obtained a premium, and all who shall hereafter receive one shall cease to be members. Nevertheless, our being members of the A. of D. C. does not imply that we cease to be members of the M. S. A. S.

3. That entire liberty of conscience shall be allowed to each and all; that every stock raiser, mechanical projector, and vegetable producer, shall be permitted to think his property equal, or even superior, to the antagonistical animal, machine, or production; that he shall enjoy the right to grumble when, how, where, and at what he pleases, in accordance with his constitutional right. Vde last clause of Sec. 20, Art. 1, Constitution of Mich.

4. That we congratulate the successful ones on their *good luck* this time, and apprise them that if we are lucky (*luck's all*) we mean to "head" them better than Boats "headed" Tyler; so let each one look well to his critter, tool, or "sarge."

5. That "precedence" shall have no place amongst us, but that we maintain perfect equality, and therefore select our "faculty" elsewhere than among ourselves.

6. That each member shall subscribe the

sum of one dollar to be expended in purchasing as many copies of the Michigan Farmer.

7. That the Editor of the Farmer be requested to accept the office of "Patron" to this association. (Carried unanimously.)

8. That the author of "Notes by the Way" be elected Secretary. Decided Nem Con.

9. That the Hon. Warren Isham be appointed Treasurer without being required to "give bonds in double the amount." Voted, Nem Dis.

10. That the meetings of this association shall be semi-centenary. That a Rotunda of suitable dimensions, shall be built and a round table, large as King Arthur's, shall be provided for the use of the members, who shall invariably sign their names in a round robin.

11. That a diploma shall be given to each member, conferring on him the degree of "Fellow of the association of disappointed candidates," provided he shall always use the initials of the foregoing words in token of his having received such degree, as an appendage to his name. And we have no doubt that F. A. D. C. will look quite as imposing, and convey as intelligible a meaning to the uninitiated, as M. R. S. A. or S. T. D. Quiz.

It will be recollected, that in the interesting letter from California, furnished for the last Farmer by Bela Hubbard Esq. allusion was made by the author to another letter he had written to his son-in-law, Mr. Farnsworth, giving some account of the geological structure of the country. The following is the letter alluded to, also handed us by Mr. Hubbard.

SAN FRANCISCO. Sept. 23, 1849.

MY DEAR FRIEND:—

I have been here just one week, and, although I have not seen the gold washed directly from the soil, yet every man here has obtained it—many having made large fortunes, and returned, or will return to their different homes. A few who have never lived by their own labor, find, for the first time, what it is to labor, and under the discouragement quit, and at length find themselves poorer than when they arrived here. All who will work can find more than a remuneration; say with easy labor, an ounce a day—many one and a half, many others two or three ounces, with the chances of daily meeting with pockets, as they are called, sometimes affording pounds.

There is nothing mysterious in the geological formation of the gold region. Imagine a flooring of metamorphic rock intersected by veins of Talcose slate, dipping vertically, and these veins of various widths the whole flooring of rock extending over the entire valley of the Sacramento and San Joaquin, inclining from the Sierra Nevada, westward to the above Rivers, giving

an ample area, as you will see by the map. This rock is mostly smooth and crops out but in few places, but covered over with a depth of sand, gravel and clay, varying in thickness from an inch to fifteen feet and more.—Imagine, furthermore, over the face of such an area of rocky surface many undulations, depressions, with the vertical edge of the slate standing up a few inches then conceive to yourself the obstruction that a natural current of mud, sand and clay, the mineral and alluvial wash from the mountains, down this inclined plain would meet with, and where the heaviest materials would settle and rest; does it not appear plain that the hollows or depressions first, and then the projecting edges of the veins of slate intersecting the rock in various ways, against which the floating mass would be propelled, would be the greatest obstructions, and that here the specific gravity of the gold would cause it to remain, when lighter minerals and earth would be carried on and transported farth—er? most certainly!

Now many have, luckily, dug down upon such obstructions, and found they were at once in a bed glittering with gold, and have taken up pounds in a day, an hour—others have, on the other hand, dug their trench, (for it is similar to trenches for laying water or gas pipes) and although gold is always found on and near the rocky flooring, their days work amounts to an ounce and sometimes more, they then follow the dip, up or down, as the case may be, and no long time expires before they perhaps are fortunate enough to hit a pocket. The fact of one place in the country being richer in mineral than another is probably erroneous, but it is the frequency of meeting with the pockets, that gives celebrity to any particular placer. Millions of men cannot exhaust the wealth of the region, and I saw an elderly gentleman who from age was unfit for labor, who had washed the sand thrown out of the cradles of other miners after washing, in one day he had got nine ounces, and had collected in all, about \$3,000 during the summer in the same manner.

Though provisions here are as cheap as at New York, at the mines, say 80 miles from Sutters, flour is \$60 per bbl., and pork \$70. Board at San Francisco, \$16 per week. Rent of ordinary hotels, such as the Parker House, as it is called here, \$155, 600 per year, offices 10 by 12 \$250 per month; stores on business streets, 7 feet wide and 20 long and 6 feet high, made of canvass, \$300 per month: indeed much of the city is of calico for inside partitions and doors, while lumber which is worth from 3 to \$500 per thousand, is only used for posts and rafters of the lightest kind.

The climate appears peculiar to eastern people, who have never witnessed the daily changes from excessive heat at noon, to a sudden wintry chill, with strong west winds prevailing till late at night, a change of clothing of the lightest kind of flannels and overcoats in six hours, besides the skies

never appear free from fogs and clouds, which leave a heavy dew on the ground.

Stealing or robbing is unknown and the strictest honesty pervades the community; guns are useless, because they are never wanted, and tens of thousands of property fill up the streets on every hand and not the value of a nail is stolen—stores are without locks—the walls are of canvass and any intention to rob might be effected by cutting the cloth with your knife, and walking into the buildings of half the stores in the city, as easy as into a tent, but the thing is unknown. The same is the case at the mines, where a miner will leave tools gold, and all, and return finding them untouched.

Every nation under heaven have their representatives here, and a modern Babel would best describe the apparent confusion of the different languages, but one universal spirit pervades all, and that spirit is best expressed in the emphatic cry "great is Dianna."

I shall remain here for the present, at least till winter, that being the best season for working in the placers, hundreds who have returned here are preparing to return to them and resume their work. The accounts which we received, before coming to see, are all confirmed and more.

Sincerely Yours,

S. W. HIGGINS.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

A Short Chapter on Bread-making.—The term "bread," in the broadest sense, can be applied to the main staple, in the support and nourishment of man; whether it be the "potatoes and point" of the Irishman; the ostrich, the pua-nacho, or the wild bull of the Buenos Ayrean Guacho; the blubber of the Greenlander; the cassava, banana, or sugar cane of the West India negro; the hump steak of the prairie hunter; the rice of the gluttonous Siamese, the contents of the ample wallet well filled with dates of the Tumbucto merchant, and the rich white bread of the American table—all are to different individuals but so many different forms of "daily bread."

The French chemists have, by the most patient series of analyses, fixed the utmost aliments of almost every article used as diet. Wheat, above all other things, stands preeminent as an article of food. With us, as a nation, it forms a most important part of life's comfort. The question before me now is as to the best way of deriving the entire nutritious substance of wheat when presented in the form of baked bread.—That we fail in gaining the object by the use of fermentatives, such as yeast, leaven, &c., can be easily shown. The intelligent reader need not be told that fermentation cannot take place in any substance that does not contain sugar in large quantities, and in the proportion that sugar predominates, will be the activity of the fermentation. In other words, the activity of the fermentation depends upon the strength or

ability of the yeast or leaven to change or convert into carbonic acid gas the saccharine contained in the wheat. Experiments in this respect enable me to speak knowingly. The quantity of nutritious matter destroyed in getting what our wives call a "light raise," is as eight to one hundred: or, out of every one hundred pounds of flour, we destroy eight, while the balance is largely injured by the process.

Nor is the practice of raising bread by the use of *sakeratus* any better; indeed, it is infinitely worse. Why are ninety-nine out of every one hundred of the American people afflicted with poor teeth? Soly from the use of *sakeratus*, not "sweet" things, as many suppose. I am confident that the love of gain ought to lead us to abandon the use of the first ingredient, while the love of health, and, above all, a good set of teeth, should induce us to abstain from the use of the latter.

A sweeter and better kind of bread can be made by following the recipe given below. One trial, I am satisfied, will convince any one.

Three cups of flour;

Two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar;

One teaspoonful of carbonate of soda, dissolved in hot water;

A little salt, and a small piece of butter or lard.

Mix with sweet milk, roll out, and bake them quickly. Add a little sugar, and it makes a very nice, healthy cake for children. The same proportions may be carried out to make a large batch of bread.

By placing the bread, when taken from the oven, in a current of sweet, fresh air, it soon recovers the oxygen that was expelled from it while it was in the oven. No bread should ever be eaten while it is hot. It is not fit for the stomach, and will certainly produce derangement, such as flatulence, acidity, biliousness, &c. It is a want of economy to use warm bread. Many persons will eat three or four warm biscuits, while seldom will they eat more than two when they are cold; and yet the two cold biscuits contain more nourishment than the four warm ones.—*Valley Farmer.*

Shipping Cattle from Michigan.—the old mode of driving cattle to the east, like every thing else, is giving way to modern improvements. Railroad cars now freight them through the states of New York and New England, cheaper than they can be driven. The central road of this state is now doing considerable in this way.

The present mode of marketing cattle east is a tedious one. Cattle starting from the interior of this state, if driven on foot to New York or Boston, consume sixty days. If freighted by road to this city—put on a boat down the Lake, and then put again upon the cars, they will reach either of the great eastern markets in a week. Taking into consideration, the usual loss of ten per cent, flesh, in driving 500 miles, they can be freighted at about one half the cost of the present mode on foot.—*Tribune.*